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Testimony to the Committee on Public Safety and Security, February 20, 2012
Chiefs Anthony Salvatore & Matthew Reed, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Security. We represent the interests of Connecticut's municipal and university police chiefs and we appear before you today to testify in OPPOSITION to **H.B. 6014 – An Act Concerning the Safe Use of Electronic Defense Weapons**.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association opposes the legislation as proposed and recommends that such legislation, if enacted, direct the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to establish training requirements for the use of Electronic Defense Weapons for the departments that choose to employ such devices. Such requirements could be incorporated into the mandatory sixty hour triennial recertification process already in place.

There is no statute now, nor has there ever been a statute that governs police training in the use of firearms. Instead such training standards are set and governed by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. This subject matter is best administered through the collaborative resources of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council and the Connecticut Police Academy, a nationally accredited law enforcement training academy.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association opposes the creation of a specific cause of action for a violation of any policy regarding the use of electronic defense weapons. An aggrieved person has a plethora of options in seeking redress of any grievance regarding actions by the police. The Association feels that the legislature ought not to be creating such an invitation to litigate against our municipalities or the State.